XXIII

A REPORT,

RELATIVE TO THE PROCEEDINGS FOR THE RELIEF OF THE

SICK POOR,

DURING THE LATE EPIDEMIC;

AND ON THE SUBJECT, GENERALLY, OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH:

TO WHICH IS ANNEXED THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE

TEMPORARY HOSPITAL.

PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL ON THE 5TH OF NOVEMBER, 1838.

BY H. L. PINCKNEY, Mayor.

CHARLESTON:
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CITY COUNCIL,

NOVEMBER 5, 1838.

The Mayor submitted a Report respecting his proceedings for the relief of the sick poor, during the late epidemic, and upon several subjects connected with the public health, accompanied by a Report from the Commissioners who were charged with the supervision of the temporary Hospital in Queen-street.

On motion of Alderman Schnierle, the Report of the Mayor, with the accompanying Documents, was ordered to be printed in pamphlet form, and made the special order of the day at the next meeting.

REPORT, &c.

GENTLEMEN—

The dreadful malady, with which our city has been afflicted, having now fortunately reached its termination, and the general health of the community having been again restored, I deem it incumbent upon me, and respectful to you, to submit a detailed report of my proceedings, under the resolution by which I was authorized to extend relief to the sick poor, together with such views or recommendations, respecting the provision proper to be made, under similar exigencies, for persons of the same description, and particularly for the prevention, as far as possible, of the recurrence of similar calamities, or in other words, for the most effectual preservation of the public health, as have been suggested by an anxious and attentive observation of the recent epidemic.

By the resolution alluded to, I was directed to administer such aid, generally, to persons requiring the benevolent interposition of the city, as might appear to be necessary or expedient. Accordingly, relief was extended to individuals in a variety of instances. In no case, however, was it so applied, except in those in which a previous examination had been made of the condition of the appli-

cant, either by the City Inspector or myself, and in which I was thoroughly satisfied, either from my personal knowledge of the case, or from the report of that officer, of the necessity and propriety of granting it. In every case, moreover, in which relief was granted, it was strictly confined either to the procurement of nurses, and medical attendance, or to small donations of money for the purchase of articles indispensably necessary to the patient. In every case, too, in which nurses and other attendants were employed, they were engaged upon the cheapest terms upon which their services could be obtained, it having been a ruling principle with me to render the expenditure as little onerous as possible, consistently with the effectual attainment of the great object of the charity. The whole number of individuals, to whom relief was administered in this way, was seventeen, and the whole amount expended, one hundred and ninety-seven dollars, twenty-five cents.

But whilst relief was extended in this manner to afflicted individuals or families, in different and generally distant parts of the city, I could not but feel that this mode of operation was highly unsatisfactory, if not wholly ineffectual, not only from the fact that cases where seldom brought to my notice till they were past recovery, but also from the difficulty of procuring nurses and other attendants in sufficient time, and particularly from my inability to ascertain whether the engagements of the persons employed were faithfully performed, or whether the pecuniary donations were strictly applied to those for whose benefit they were intended. Under those circumstances, it occurred to me that the laudable and benevolent object of the Council would be much better attained, by providing a public place in which the objects of their bounty might be gathered together, and in which they might experience all the advantages that would necessarily be afforded by careful nursing, regular medical attendance, and all the other comforts and accommodations connected with the establishment of a temporary Hospital. This view of the subject derived additional strength from the fact, that at that time, the Hospital department of the Poor House was filled to overflowing. It then contained upwards of fifty patients, ill of stranger's fever, in addition to an unusually large number of others, ill of other and ordinary maladies. The pestilence was then raging. According to all human judgment there was every prospect that it would increase rather than diminish. The great probability, of course, was that the Poor House Hospital would continue full, and that private applications for relief would daily become more and more numerous and pressing. In that state

of things, being earnestly desirous to carry out the views of Council, and having consulted several highly respectable citizens as to the utility and feasibility of the plan, I applied to the Faculty of the Medical College of South-Carolina, for the use of the Infirmary, attached to that Institution, as a public Hospital, during the continuance of the epidemic, which had then pervaded every portion of the city. The application was promptly and generously granted. Measures were then taken, as speedily as possible, to organize a Board of Commissioners for the regulation of the Hospital. The Board was composed of ladies and gentlemen, selected from the different religious denominations amongst us, of whom the former kindly undertook the supervision of the female, and the latter, of the male department of the Institution. As soon as the Board was organized, all necessary articles were procured for the equipment of the Hospital, and the comfort and accommodation of the patients. Officers were appointed to superintend the establishment, and the services were also engaged of the necessary number of attendants. The Medical department was placed under the charge of the City Inspector, Dr. A. G Howard whose services had been required by me in his official capacity, but who was subsequently and formally elected by the Board. Several judicious rules were adopted for the management of the medical, and other departments of the Hospital. The Commissioners were divided into Visiting Committees, each of whom attended the Hospital daily during their allotted period of service, and gave their personal attention to the patients, and to all the objects connected with the Institution. A Committee on Accounts was also appointed, by whom an accurate account has been kept of the receipts and disbursements relating to this charity.

In the progress of the Hospital, it soon became desirable that those, who were recovering, should be separated from the sick Application was therefore made to the Faculty of the College for the use of a portion of that edifice, to which the convalescent might be removed, and in which they might be comfortably accommodated, until their cures were finally effected. The application was acceded to, and the use of two of the upper rooms was granted for this purpose, one of which was assigned to male, and the other to female, convalescents. By this arrangement those who were recovering, were not only removed from every thing painful or unpleasant in the Hospital, but were furnished with the advantages of fresh air and extensive room for exercise, which contributed essentially to the restoration of their health. By their removal, also, room was af-

forded in the Hospital for the admission of a much larger number of patients than could have otherwise been received. By this arrangement also, the important object was effected, of providing accommodation for female patients in the upper room of the Hospital, which had been previously occupied by males, and thus promoting the comfort of the former, without producing any injury or inconvenience to the latter.

Of the Commissioners of the Hospital, (in which designation not only the gentlemen, but the ladies who were associated with them, are included,) I embrace this occasion to say that they are eminently entitled to public thanks and gratitude for the philanthropic spirit with which they undertook the laborious office that had been assigned them, and the unremitted assiduity and zeal with which they performed their duties. In all the reports of the Visiting Committees, the conduct of the Physician and other officers is spoken of in terms of unqualified commendation. The same language respecting them is held by the whole Board, in their general report, at the termination of their labors. The conduct of all the officers is represented as exemplary. All possible care was taken of the patients. Every comfort was afforded, and every species of relief administered, that could mitigate their sufferings, or conduce to their recovery. The results, accordingly, were of the most cheering character. The establishment of the Hospital was attended with eminent success. In no other instance has an equal number of cures been effected in the same number of cases, the proportion of deaths to recoveries having been in the gratifying and extraordinary ratio of one to nine, except in those cases only in which the patients had been inveterately addicted to habits of intemperance. The Hospital was put into operation on the 15th of September, and discontinued on the 20th of October, having been kept in existence somewhat longer than a month. During that period, one hundred and seven patients were admitted, of whom seventy-two were adult males, twenty-eight adult females, and seven children. Of the whole number, thirty-one died, and the remainder, (seventy-six,) recovered. Of those who died, the whole number, with the exception perhaps of four or five, were persons whose constitutions had been materially impaired by the dissoluteness of their habits, and the gross irregularities of their lives.

As regards the expenditures connected with this Hospital, it is due to the Commissioners and myself to state, that every effort was made, not only to systemise them, but to render them as little onerous as possible, consistently with the welfare of the patients, and

the success of the establishment for which they were incurred. The whole amount expended, is $1904,50. Considering the large number of patients admitted, and the protracted duration of the establishment, arising from the long continuance of the epidemic, this amount is certainly rather a subject of gratulation, from its smallness, than justly liable to the imputation of extravagance, and particularly when taken in connexion with the number of lives saved, and the important benefits effected. Indeed, there can be no doubt, that, whilst the establishment of this Hospital was of eminent service to the afflicted, it also produced a considerable saving to the Treasury. Had no such asylum been provided, private applications for relief would necessarily have been made to an extent certainly equal to, and perhaps far exceeding, the number of admissions in the Hospital; and it is obvious, that if separate relief had been granted in all the cases in which it would have been solicited, the expense of relieving them would have considerably exceeded the expenses of the Hospital, which have not been as much upon an average as $17 to each individual. There can be no doubt, also, that if the relief Hospital had been established at the commencement of the epidemic, the lives of many would have been saved, who now lie mouldering in their graves, and for the rescue of some of whom, unavailing efforts were made through the instrumentality of public aid. If, therefore, there be any just ground of regret pertaining to this measure, it is, not that it was established at all, but that it was not resorted to at an earlier period than it was. Had it been established simultaneously with the appearance of the malady, it is abundantly evident from its own records, and it is certainly the settled conviction of all who were connected with it, that, successful as it was, it would have been productive of still more important and extended benefits.

On the 3d ult. information was given me that a ship called the Canton, bound from New York to New Orleans, with forty-two steerage passengers on board, had put into this port in distress. Conceiving it to be not only an act of humanity, but of policy, I immediately took measures for their removal to the Lazaretto, at Morris's Island. All of them were strangers to our climate, and many of them women and children. Had they remained in the city, all of them, in all human probability, would have been seized with the prevailing malady, in which event they would necessarily have been sent to the Hospital, and thus have become a charge upon the corporation. The addition of so many new cases, moreover, would naturally have heightened the excitement of the public mind,

which, at that period, was intense, and also have contributed seriously to the extension and duration of the epidemic itself. Feeling earnestly desirous, therefore, not only to rescue these unfortunate individuals from the imminent and fatal peril to which they were exposed, but also to render their continuance here as little expensive to the corporation as possible, I deemed it proper to adopt the proceeding already stated. According to the arrangement which I made with them, they were to have remained at the Lazaretto until the ship, in which they came, should have taken them from thence, and carried them on to their place of destination. The strongest assurances had been given me by the Captain, that the vessel would be repaired and ready to receive them in ten or twelve days at farthest. But as he was disappointed in his expectation, the passengers remained at the Lazaretto longer than I had intended to have kept them there. Finding, however, that it began to be uncertain when the vessel would be fit for sea, I directed that, unless they were taken off in the interim, for the prosecution of their voyage, they should be brought up to the city, as soon as the healthiness of the atmosphere should be sufficiently restored to allow them to return with safety. They have accordingly returned. It affords me pleasure to state that none of them have been sick. Their lives have been saved, and at a cost to the city not only trifling in itself, but absolutely too insignificant to mention, when compared with the preservation of so many human beings, who had been providentially thrown upon our shore, and who, without our sympathy and aid, would most probably have perished. They were maintained at the Lazaretto about four weeks, and the whole amount expended for their support, including the chartering of vessels to take them to the Island, and bring them back to the city, is $210 64 cents.

The aggregate expenditure, then, under the Resolution for the relief of the sick poor, is as follows:

For the relief of separate individuals,	$197 25
For the maintenance of the Relief Hospital,	1904 50
To which may be added, for the maintenance of forty-two individuals at the Lazaretto,	210 64
Making an aggregate, for the whole, of	$2312 39

And for this amount, relief was afforded to seventeen persons privately, every comfort administered to upwards of a hundred in the Hospital, and maintenance provided, for four weeks, for forty-two others at the Lazaretto. I trust, therefore, that Council will perceive, that, whilst I earnestly endeavored to render as much be-

nefit as possible to those who were embraced in the spirit of the Resolution under which I acted, I also endeavored to dispense that benefit with as little expense to the city, as the nature of the operations, and the amount of relief afforded, could possibly admit.

Appended to this report, are several statements, by the City Treasurer, showing the amounts drawn from the Treasury, under the different branches of provision for the indigent sick, and corresponding with the account just given by myself. Also a general report, by the Commissioners of the Relief Hospital, of their proceedings relative to the supervision of the same, to which are attached a report, by the Physician, to the said Board, respecting the conduct of the medical department, and also a report, by the Committee on Accounts, of the receipts and disbursements, regularly vouched and confirmed by the Board. To these documents Council are respectfully referred for farther and more minute information as to all the transactions of the various departments of the Hospital.

Having thus rendered an account of my stewardship, under the resolution by which I was directed to attend to the wants, and supply the necessities, of the indigent sick. I would now invite Council to a brief consideration of the causes, both natural and moral, in which the late epidemic had its origin, and of the remedial measures, proper to be adopted, to prevent the recurrence of similar visitations, or, if that be impracticable, to mitigate their severity, and lessen their duration, whenever our city may be afflicted by them.

As to the natural causes of the epidemic, there can be no doubt, I think, that it is entirely attributable to the extensive conflagration of April last, and the extraordinary heat and moisture by which that calamity was succeeded. The conflagration alluded to, by laying waste a very large portion of our city, necessarily subjected to the action of the sun a vast amount of matter, of various kinds, from which there was educed a constant and deleterious effluvium, corrupting to the atmosphere, and consequently unfriendly to the human system. It is true, that immediately after the occurrence of the fire, every effort was made, in anticipation of the summer heat, to avert the consequences of its baneful influence, by filling all the vaults, wells, and cellars in the burnt region with brick and mortar. But, notwithstanding all those precautions, it is generally believed that the exposure of so extensive a region, embracing as it did so many and such various sources of disease, to the combined operation of heat and rain, constituted a primary and powerful cause of

the late desolating calamity. Of this cause then, the only efficient remedy, perhaps, that can be found, is in the speedy rebuilding of the burnt district. That operation, fortunately, is steadily progressing, and we may, therefore, reasonably indulge a hope, that before the expiration of another year, the fatal efficacy of the cause adverted to, in producing pestilence, will have been substantially arrested and subdued. The other sources of disease unquestionably were, stagnant water in low lots, the foul and offensive odours emitted from the drains, and in very many instances, from cellars, vaults, and other places of a similar description, and particularly the powerful and active agency of grave yards, in contributing to the general pollution of the atmosphere. It is universally admitted, that vegetable decomposition, exhalations from stagnant water, and animal putrefaction, are the most powerful sources of malignant maladies. Now, in a large and populous city like this, there were necessarily a large number of low lots, and a vast variety of matter subject to putrefaction, or capable of emitting offensive exhalations. It is easy, therefore, to conceive the extent to which the combined heat and moisture of the past summer must have contributed to the generation of disease, or, in other words, to the production of those deleterious vapors, and noxious gases, which, by mixing with the atmosphere, destroyed its purity, and changed it, from a principal supporter, to the most deadly enemy of life. Nor was this all. The same excessive heat that infected the atmosphere, by its action upon substances liable to putrefaction or decay, produced a predisposition to imbibe the infection, by its relaxing operation upon the human system. Strangers, therefore, who not only inhaled a tainted air, but whose constitutions were enervated by heat and toil, and thus rendered peculiarly liable to the deleterious action of the former, could scarcely fail to be affected by it. The result proved, accordingly, that with some few exceptions, the epidemic was confined to those who were not only not accustomed to our climate, but whose constant exposure to the sun, aided by hard labor and dissipated habits, had emphatically prepared them to become its victims.

Of the moral causes of the epidemic, (and they are, perhaps, scarcely less numerous and powerful than the natural,) it is but little hazardous to say, that it is distinctly traceable to the prevailing vice of intemperance, and the long catalogue of vicious and destructive habits, that are invariably connected with it. Of course, I do not mean to say that all who were affected, were addicted to intemperance, and its concomitant train of vices. It is a remarkable feature, however, in the late epidemic, and it constitutes an equally co-

gent and practical argument in favor of the temperance reform, that of those who were affected by it, who were known to have led regular and temperate lives, a large majority recovered. It is equally remarkable, and it has been demonstrated by the history of the disease, and the classification of patients by different physicians, that not only by far the greatest number of patients were persons of dissipated and degrading habits, but that in almost every instance in which the fever and intemperance were conjoined, they formed a hopeless and incurable complication. In addition to those causes, which at once invited the assaults of pestilence, and imparted to them a peculiar fatality, may be mentioned the frequent collection of numerous persons in the same houses, and the consequent filthiness of the houses and impurity of the atmosphere about them, which not only co-operated with intemperance in predisposing to disease, but contributed largely of themselves to create and diffuse the infection. Under all those circumstances, the atmosphere having been corrupted by the action of long continued and intense heat upon an infinity of matter subject to putrefaction, and the assaults of the pestilence literally solicited by habits which rendered those who indulged them eminently susceptible of infection, it is certainly not astonishing that its progress should have been characterised, as it was, by unprecedented fatality and violence.

Such then being the causes in which the recent epidemic had its origin, the question arises, how can they be so averted or remedied hereafter, as to prevent the recurrence, or alleviate the calamities, of similar visitations?

As regards the agency of low lots in corrupting the atmosphere by unwholesome exhalations from stagnant water, this evil, fortunately, it is within the competency of the City Corporation to control; and, as the preliminary steps in a course of remedial operations can be taken by the Mayor, I have already directed the City Inspector to examine systematically every lot within the limits of the city, and to report every one, with the names of their owners or occupants, of which the condition requires that it should be drained or filled, in order to prevent its becoming a nuisance, and a source of disease, at the return of warm weather. As soon as the report of the Inspector shall have been received, the Committee of Inspection of the Board of Health will be summoned to examine and report upon the lots so reported by the Inspector, and the reports of the Committee of Inspection will then be submitted to Council for their approval, and in the confident reliance that prompt measures will be taken to carry the recommendations of the Com-

mittee into full effect. It is obvious, that, unless this course of proceeding be adopted, there will be numerous lots, constituting nuisances, next summer, which it will be impossible so to abate, at that time, as to prevent injurious consequences to the public health. Experience has proved that delays, in matters of this kind, are extremely dangerous. Hitherto, no lot has been drained or filled, until it has been complained of by the neighborhood, or otherwise specially brought to the notice of the City Authorities. The consequence has been, that many lots, that ought to have been attended to, have remained unnoticed, and even of those that were attended to, the remedy of some was not performed until serious evils had arisen from their foul condition. My object, therefore, is to anticipate the nuisances of the next summer, by placing every lot in proper order, as speedily as possible, of which there is reason to believe, that, unless previously improved, it would then be dangerous to the public health. Every low lot should be ascertained and remedied without delay. Let this be done, and one at least of the causes from which infectious maladies proceed, will be substantially removed.

As regards the drains, there is reason to believe that many of them are in a very foul condition, and imperatively require cleansing, before the recurrence of warm weather, to prevent the noxious effluvia that will otherwise be emitted. The same policy that dictates immediate attention to the lots, prescribes a similar course in relation to the drains. It is my intention, therefore, to ascertain and report to Council, as far as practicable, the number and location of the drains that require cleansing, in order that that salutary operation may be executed during the winter season, if Council concur in the necessity of the course proposed. I embrace this occasion, also, to remark, that much of the effluvium, usually emitted by our drains, may be prevented by the adoption of a very cheap and simple plan, which has been successfully resorted to, by some of our citizens, in relation to private drains. This plan consists in giving such a construction to the orifice of the drain, that, whilst water, in any quantity, is easily admissible into the drain, a certain portion is retained upon the surface, which, by closing the orifice, prevents the transpiration of vapor or effluvium. Having seen the effect of this ingenious contrivance, in a drain in which it has been most advantageously employed, I deem it my duty to bring it distinctly to the view of Council, and to recommend that authority be given me to make an experiment with it on one of the drains in the improved portion of the city. If it be found on

trial, as I have no doubt it will, an effectual preventive of the emission of effluvium, measures can then be taken for its general application to the drains, in the improved streets, by which an important benefit will be rendered to the public health, and another and a very active source of malignant malady removed.

With respect to existing cellars, I have no remedy to suggest, except the strict enforcement of the law by which they are required to be kept dry and ventilated. As there can be no doubt, however, that, notwithstanding all the requisitions of the laws, and all the vigilance that can be exercised by the public officers, many of our cellars are not only damp and unwholesome, but frequently actually filled with stagnant water, and even with putrid animal or vegetable matter, thereby creating pestilence in the different vicinities by which they are surrounded, I consider it a duty to invite the attention of Council to the propriety of prohibiting the construction of cellars, in future, as a part of our system of health police. The policy recently adopted, of prohibiting the erection of wooden buildings, has generally been regarded as fraught with wisdom, and highly conducive to the public welfare: but surely, if it be wise to avert, as far as possible, the destruction of property by fire, it cannot be less wise or salutary so to regulate the construction of the houses allowed by law, as to prevent their becoming sources of disease and instruments of death, instead of contributing, as they should do, to the prolongation and happiness of life.

With regard to the evils arising from grave yards, it is evident that the only efficient remedy would be to prohibit interments within the corporate limits of the city, and to establish a public Cemetery beyond them. I deem it a duty, therefore, to recommend this policy to the favorable consideration of the Council, and I am gratified to be able to state, that this recommendation is sustained by the cordial and unanimous concurrence of the highly respectable and intelligent Board, recently intrusted with the supervision of the temporary Hospital. By referring to the report of that Board, Council will perceive a resolution, amongst others adopted by them, in which this policy is submitted as being founded equally in wisdom and humanity.

As an evidence of the propriety of legislative action on this subject, it may not be improper to remind you, that only two years since, an ordinance was passed, prohibiting the establishment of additional burial grounds within the limits of the city. The reasons which induced the enactment of that ordinance, apply with ten-fold force in favor of the system now suggested. The passage of that ordinance prevented, indeed, the indefinite extension or

multiplication of those particular sources of disease; but it still left in existence a large number, which have already produced the most pernicious effects, and of which the capacity to do evil must necessarily increase, from year to year, in consequence of the unlimited number of interments that must take place in them, from the very fact that they are the only places in which interments are now permitted. Indeed, unless we go further, and prohibit burials entirely within the city, it may well be questioned whether the restrictive regulation, above alluded to, will not eventually be more productive of evil than of good. If we must have burial grounds within the city, it appears to me that the larger the number, and the less occupied the grounds, respectively, the better for the public health. Certain it is, however, that in the lapse of a few years more, the existing cemeteries, many of which are old and extensively occupied already, will be filled to such an extent, as to render interments impossible of the legal depth, and that exactly in proportion as that condition is produced, they will be more and more injurious to the public health. It is the dictate of true policy, therefore, to anticipate this condition, and to prevent its consequences, by timely legislation on the subject. The existing grave yards have not only inflicted much harm already, but must inevitably become more and more hurtful, with every succeeding year, unless their power to do evil be arrested by the decisive interposition of the public arm; and, therefore, whether we regard the injuries already done, or the deplorable extent to which they may be increased hereafter, patriotism and humanity unite in calling upon us to prevent the repetition of such crying evils—a result that can only be accomplished by the eradication of their sources.

It is, by no means, my intention to detain you with an argument, to establish the injurious effects of grave yards upon the public health. Upon this point, I presume, there is little or no diversity of opinion. History and experience prove, that of all the causes of malignant maladies, there is none more powerful or prolific than animal putrefaction. The annals of mankind are full of the terrible and desolating plagues, which are recorded as having had their origin in this particular cause. Many of them, doubtless, are within the recollection of the members of this body. They occurred frequently amongst the ancients. Several edicts were issued by Roman Emperors, relating to calamities that had proceeded from interments in or near churches, and prohibiting both those practices. Modern history is still more instructive on this interesting subject. Without entering into detail, however, it is sufficient for

my purpose to advert to the appalling pestilence that occurred in different parts of France, about half a century ago, and which, in every city in which it made its appearance, laid in their tombs a very large proportion of its ill-fated population.

Such being the terrible effects arising from burials in populous communities, we find, accordingly, that in all ages and in all countries, in the remotest antiquity as well as in modern times, amongst savage as well as civilized nations, the policy has been acted on of preserving the living, as far as possible, by the entire destruction, or distant removal, of the dead. Both the Greeks and Romans buried their dead beyond the precincts of their cities. In Eastern countries the practice prevails, very generally, of burning them, but wherever inhumation is resorted to, it is invariably performed at a distance from the cities. On the continent of Europe, there is scarcely a city at the present day in which interments are permitted. In France, particularly, the destructive epidemics above alluded to led to the adoption of that admirable regulation, by which inhumation was entirely abolished in the cities of that empire. This wise policy has been imitated extensively in Europe, and, in a variety of instances, in the United States. Every one knows, for example, that interments have been abolished by law in Boston and Philadelphia, and that the public cemeteries, established in the vicinity of those cities, have already begun to vie, in religious awe, and monumental decoration, with the celebrated funereal garden of *Pere la Chaise.*

Why should not this obvious policy be adopted here? If it be a measure of sanitary precaution at the North, is it not at least equally necessary in a city of the South? If inhumation in populous towns is considered dangerous in the cold regions of the North, must it not be still more dangerous in a warm climate like ours, where the prutrefactive process is carried on with much greater rapidity, and where a much greater quantity is evolved of those deleterious vapors that corrupt the atmosphere and generate disease?

Medical men, in all countries, have concurred in representing inhumation to be dangerous in crowded cities, and I know of no medical practitioner here, who is not of opinion that our grave yards contributed materially to the production and protraction of the recent epidemic. To say nothing of the previously crowded condition, and deleterious operation of several of our cemeteries, let me simply state the fact, that during the prevalence of the late epidemic, upwards of four hundred interments took place within the limits of the city. Can any one doubt for a moment, that the ad-

dition of such a number to the dead must have produced a most fatal effect upon the living! or that every successive corpse, as it was deposited in the earth, quickened the malaria, and extended the infection, by which other victims were laid in the grave!

It is a remarkable fact that Charleston is the only part of South-Carolina, in which the Fellow Fever has been known to exist. How is this peculiarity to be accounted for? Heat, moisture, stagnant water, vegetable decomposition, and other causes, only produce, in the interior, remittent or intermittent fevers, which prevail in a greater or less degree in almost every portion of our country. Why is it that any other than those fevers ever occurs in Charleston? Why is it that human life is swept away by a besom of destruction here, to which it is exposed in no other section of our State? Can any other or better reason be assigned than that animal putrefaction enters little if at all, in the interior, into the composition of the atmosphere, whilst it forms, unfortunately, one of its largest constituents here, and that, by being thus superadded to all the other sources of corruption, it causes the atmosphere to be thoroughly empoisoned, and produces a malady, not less singular in its character, than it is deadly in effect.

In recommending the abolition of interments in the city, I am well aware that it is calculated to excite the opposition of religious prejudice, and individual attachments to the dead. It is to be hoped, however, that all prejudices or feelings of this kind will be sacrificed on the altar of the public good. No patriot can desire the continuance of a custom, which has been proved to be deleterious to the public health. However we may venerate the memories of departed friends, or desire to lie near them when we die ourselves, it still becomes us to remember that the great object of inhumation is the protection of the living, and, therefore, that if the existing burial grounds are hurtful, other and safer ones ought to be selected. As it is the duty of every one to do good whilst living, so no one should desire to injure others after death. This project at first, may startle some from its novelty, and excite repugnance in others to a separation from their dead: but, only let a public cemetery be established, and prejudice will soon yield to the wisdom and patriotism of the measure, and attachment be enlisted by the solemn associations and attractive exhibitions of the scene. In the lapse of a very few years, the existing grave yards would be supplanted in popular affection by the new, and the current of all those feelings which now bind us to the former, would be entirely diverted in favor of the latter.

This measure is sustained, moreover, by moral and religious

views, well worthy of attention. A public cemetery is not only important, as a prudential measure, to prevent the fatal consequences of infection, but it is far better calculated, than those we now have, to excite and cherish those solemn feelings and hallowed associations that are connected with the grave. The existing church yards are unsightly spectacles, and so far from creating the impressions which ought to be created by repositories of the dead, they are regarded with absolute indifference, and not unfrequently made the theatres of idle merriment or vice. How different would be the feelings with which even the most thoughtless would enter a funereal grove, tastefully laid out, and exhibiting the chaste and appropriate embellishments of a city of the dead? Who for instance could visit Mount Auburn or Laurel Hill, combining as they do all that is beautiful and affecting in nature and in art, all that is calculated to gratify taste and awaken piety, without feeling that he was treading on consecrated ground, and having his thoughts and affections purified and elevated by all around him? Why then should not a similar mode of sepulture be established here? And why should not Charleston, like other cities, and some of them much less populous than herself, have a public cemetery, which will not only save the living, by the distant removal of the dead, but which, "by its still small voice," speaking through sepulchral monuments and funereal groves, will act as a powerful auxiliary to religion, by inspiring a feeling of religious awe, and inducing meditations, at once solemn and delightful, on the nature, the duties, and the final destiny of man?

The vicinity of Charleston affords many beautiful spots for the location of a grave yard. I recommend, therefore, that a sufficient quantity of land be purchased for this purpose, beyond the precincts of the city, and that it be divided and sold out, on extensive credit, among the different religious denominations, and such individuals as may desire to obtain portions of the same for the purpose of family interment. Should this scheme be attended with any difficulty, (though I apprehend none,) I recommend, that in that event, an ordinance be passed prohibiting burials within the city after a specified time, establishing a general cemetery beyond its limits, and regulating the modes and terms of sepulture therein.

Such are the remedies I have deemed it my duty to suggest, in reference to the *natural* causes of disease. In relation to those which have been contradistinguished as *moral*, it is obvious that the only mode by which any real good can be effected, is by suppressing, as far as possible, the evils of intemperance: regulating the houses in which the idle and dissolute are crowded, and whose fil-

thy condition converts them into hotbeds of infection; and restraining the influx into the city, during the summer season, of all that class of people, whose evil and abandoned habits not only render them useless to themselves, but peculiarly liable to disease, and thus to become burthens to society. Upon all these matters, I trust that Council will bestow the attention, and display the energy, that are so imperatively demanded by the public weal.

With regard to future provision for the sick poor, I recommend that an arrangement be made with the Faculty of the Medical College, in Queen-street, for the use of the Infirmary, attached to that institution, as a Relief Hospital, in times of epidemic; that the property now in that building belonging to the city, be retained there for future use; and that the building be enlarged, by the addition of a dead room. If no such arrangement be effected, I recommend that the city property in the said building be sold, and the proceeds deposited in the City Treasury.

I recommend also, that an application be made to the Legislature to reimburse the expenditures incurred by the city, on account of the late epidemic, which were applied entirely to the relief of strangers and transient poor.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I make no apology for the length of this document. The subject of the public health is of all others the most important, not only as regards the preservation of human life, but because, unless our city be improved in healthiness, vain will be all its natural and commercial advantages, all our plans for its improvement, and all the patriotic enterprises now in progress to re-establish its prosperity. I have, therefore, considered it my duty to bring this subject before you, in all its prominent features, and most important bearings; and, having discharged that duty, I now leave it with you, perfectly satisfied that, in the exercise of your superior judgment, and under the influence of an enlightened patriotism, every thing will be done, that ought to be done, for the public good.

H. L. PINCKNEY, *Mayor.*

Statement of Amounts paid for the relief of sundry Sick Poor, per order of His Honor the Mayor, viz:

1838.

September 8	Paid per order of the Mayor,			$20 00
	Do.	do.	do.	10 00
	Do.	do.	do.	20 00
	Do.	do.	do.	15 00
" 15	Do.	do.	do.	10 00
	Do.	do.	do.	20 00
" 24	Do.	do.	do. for Nursing,	15 00
	Do.	do.	do. hire of 3 Nurses,	39 25
October 15	Do.	do.	do. do.	20 00
	Do.	do.	do. 5 days Nurse hire,	8 00
" 20	Do.	do.	do. Nursing, &c.	20 00
				$197 25

Amounts paid Mrs. Sarah Dehon for the use of the Queen-street Hospital, per order of the Mayor.

September 14	Paid Mrs. Sarah Dehon,	per order,		$100 00
19	Do.	do.	do.	200 00
25	Do.	do.	do.	200 00
October 4	Do.	do.	do.	200 00
11	Do.	do.	do.	200 00
22	Do.	do.	do.	500 00
				$1,400 00
	Amount paid Dr. Howard,			500 00
	Do. do. Sol. Moses,			25 00
	Total paid to 30th October,			$1,925 00
	Cr.—By cash of Mrs. Dehon,			20 50
	Total expended,			$1,904 50

Amount drawn from the Treasury, per order of the Mayor, for the support of forty-two transient poor at Morris' Island, viz:

For Groceries,	$58 30
Do.	32 02
For House Rent,	25 00
For Boat Hire,	50 00
For Bread,	25 20
For Beef,	16 12
For Washing,	4 00
	$210 64

Respectfully submitted.

E. ROACH, *City Treasurer.*

Charleston, November 3, 1838.

To the Hon. HENRY L. PINCKNEY, *Mayor of Charleston:*

SIR—I beg leave to transmit to you the Report of the Commissioners of the late Relief Hospital, in Queen street.

The Report has appended to it Resolutions, in whose general spirit I fully concur. I hope, however, to be permitted, respectfully, to say, that I do not believe the special measure of closing at sunset the shops which hold the license No. 3, to be either so beneficial, or so practicable, as the greater number of the gentlemen with whom I had the honor of being associated, seem to think. My individual opinion is of little moment, yet with the highest respect for my fellow Commissioners, and the most perfect conviction of the excellence of their motives in adopting it, I thought it would have been better to have omitted this resolution.

With this communication, the Board considers its last duty performed.

I have the honor to be sir, very respectfully,

†JOHN, Bishop of Charleston, *Chairman.*

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE RELIEF HOSPITAL.

To the Hon. HENRY L. PINCKNEY, *Mayor of Charleston:*

The Commissioners of the Relief Hospital, in Queen street, respectfully report—

That they were called together by notices from the Mayor, for the afternoon of Friday, the 14th of September, when they met, and were organized.

At that period, the City Hospital, at the Poor House, was crowded to such a state, as not only to create great inconvenience, but to be conducive to an increase of sickness. Numbers had perished in their houses for want of attendance. The keepers of lodging houses were importunate to be relieved of their sick inmates, as even the imperfect attention which they could bestow upon them, occupied that time which their usual avocations demanded. Nurses could not be procured at even exorbitant wages. Many of the boarding houses into which several of the sufferers were stowed, were nauseous and repulsive. From the state of the weather, and the period of the year, it was almost certain that the epidemic would continue for five or six weeks longer, and that it had not then reached its worst stage. It was evident to the board, that the Mayor had taken the only proper step, which care for the public

health, as well as charity for the sick, and for the families in which they were found, demanded, when he decided upon opening a Relief Hospital, into which a large number of patients might be received, in addition to those who could be conveniently attended to in the City Hospital.

Two other considerations confirmed them in this opinion: one was, that in the City Hospital, scarcely any provision could be made for the proper accommodation of female patients, who, though not so numerous as those of the other sex, yet were many, and greatly in need of attention, but almost entirely neglected. The other was, that whilst the relief given to the patients, and to their families, by receiving them into a well regulated hospital, would be far more effectual than would be any reasonable relief at their houses, the cost to the city would be incalculably less.

The Commissioners, therefore, entered fully into the views of the Mayor, when he proposed that they should aid in the superintendence of a Hospital, to relieve at the same time, the distress of the afflicted, and the pressure upon the City Hospital, upon the principle of providing amply for the public health, and the relief of the sick, yet using, with due economy, the means which the city would furnish for that purpose.

The Mayor having informed them that he had procured the Infirmary of the Medical Hospital in Queen street, that he had organized a Board of Ladies to aid in the superintendence, that he had provided some necessary furniture, and that many and pressing applications for relief, which could not be well afforded, except in the Hospital, were continually made upon him, the Board saw that they could not procrastinate without endangering several lives, and exposing still more the health of the city; they, therefore, determined upon immediate action, and issued notice that the Hospital would be ready to receive patients by noon on the next day. Having provided a master, the necessity of securing immediately the services of a physician, was urgent. They had before their eyes a gentleman of sufficient experience, and of established character, who, by reason of his peculiar position as a city officer, was not so extensively engaged in private practice, and in whom the public authorities had repeatedly reposed well deserved confidence. They, therefore, selected Dr. HOWARD, to be Physician to the Hospital, at such compensation as they might deem reasonable, when the duties were about to terminate.

By the united exertions of the Ladies, of the Physician, and of the Master, under the supervision of the Mayor, the Hospital was

prepared, and its first patient admitted before noon on Saturday, the 15th September, after which the accessions were rapid, so that in a short time the beds were all occupied.

The Board was distributed into Visiting Committees, who were, in turn, to have charge of the Hospital and to visit it at least daily. A Committee on Purchases, and one on Accounts, were also appointed. The Ladies made a similar distribution of their Board, and similar appointments, and their superintendence was extremely beneficial.

During the period of five weeks that this Hospital was kept open, that is to the 20th of October, it will be seen by the report of the Physician, hereto appended, that one hundred and seven patients of all descriptions were received therein, of whom seventy were male adults, twenty-nine were females, and seven children, whose mothers were brought to the Hospital; some of these children needed medical assistance, and all of them were provided for by the ladies who superintended the Institution. Of the male patients, one whose case was not proper for the Relief Hospital; was removed to the Poor House. The others may be classed, from the result of inquiry and observation, into two classes; the first consisting of thirty-eight, who were habitually intemperate in the use of ardent spirits. In some instances the disease succeeded almost immediately to a debauch. Of this class, twenty-three died and fifteen were restored. In some of these cases scarcely a shadow of hope existed at the period of admission that a cure could be effected. Some of the unfortunate beings died within very short periods after their arrival. The remaining thirty-one male adults were persons who either used spirituous liquors very moderately or very seldom, or were nearly abstemious; of this class only five died; and amongst those who recovered, there were some who, at the period of being brought to the Hospital, appeared to be in nearly a hopeless condition: one or two indeed, seemed to be moribund, and others had been suffering without attendance during three or four days previous to their removal.

Of the females only three died, and the children have all been preserved.

The Board would remark that they had every reason to be satisfied with the efficiency and the zeal of the Physician; the Master and Matron have given universal satisfaction; and the nurses have been faithful and attentive. Dr. Howard not only attended regularly four times daily at stated hours, but made frequent extra visits, and very often slept on a cot at the Hospital, for the purpose of be-

ing better able to attend during the night to very critical cases, and to insure the performance of their duty by the attendants.

It was originally the intention to confine the admissions into the Relief Hospital to the cases of females, and of those male patients, who could not be conveniently accommodated at the City Hospital; but the Members of the Board were frequently obliged to yield to the importunity of patients and their friends, whose prejudices they could not overcome by any efforts to induce them to enter the Poor House. No alternative remained, but to receive and endeavor to relieve them, or to suffer them to perish—and their families to endure hardship, and be exposed to disease and bereavement. Hence, during the latter period of the epidemic, the number of patients suffering under Strangers' Fever in the City Hospital was comparatively small, whilst that in the Relief Hospital was considerable.

In looking over the expenditures it will be perceived that considering the necessity of fitting up a new Hospital, and the number of persons who have been received, the amount is small, and a large portion of the furniture and materials which it was necessary to procure still remain at the disposal of the city. The salaries are the lowest that could be given for services so faithfully performed, and especially at a time when the demands for those who attend the sick were numerous and urgent, and the remunerations offered were far above the ordinary rates of ordinary times.

It is the opinion of the Board that previous to its dissolution, it would be advisable, respectfully to draw the attention of the City Authorities to some causes of the epidemic which they considered not only peculiarly injurious to individuals but also to the general character of the city, in the hope that Council, in its wisdom, may be able to devise some remedy for evils of no inconsiderable magnitude. The sentiments of the Board are very briefly expressed in resolutions adopted by them and appended as a portion of this Report. Though they will not assign the evils to which they advert as the generating causes of the epidemic, still the Board cannot but regard them as predisposing causes in the individuals, and as aiding the generation and increasing the virulence of the disease.

They would assign as such causes, intemperance, the overcrowded and filthy state of many of the lodging houses of the laboring people, the negligent and dissolute habits of idle vagrants, the retaining of cemeteries in densely peopled parts of the city, and the want of an Hospital sufficiently large and suitable for the accommodation of the great number of patients that seek such an asylum, not only

in times of epidemic, but on other occasions. They trust they may not be considered as going out of their way, in making a few observations in support of their views.

It must be manifest, from the statements already made, as well as from the report of the physician, that the abuse of ardent spirits was one great cause of a number of the most miserable deaths, whereby, in several instances, the burthen of supporting widows and orphans has been thrown upon our community, the power of useful labor was seriously diminished, and the character of our city very greatly injured. When an increased mortality is shewn by our records, the minds of those abroad are merely intent upon the existence of disease, and the number of deaths; the unhealthiness of the city, the fatality of the disorder, the danger to those who visit us, are all greatly exaggerated by those who have little or no opportunity of searching for the true cause of that increase. The Board believes that a great cause of that increase is to be found in habits of intemperance

Thus, if we take the class of sober men admitted into the Relief Hospital, we find it to have been thirty-one, in which there were five deaths; being less than one out of six The females are also considered temperate and less exposed They were twenty-nine, amongst whom there were three deaths, being about one out of ten. Thus taking the temperate men and women together, and omitting the children, we shall have eight deaths in sixty cases—that is rather more than one out of eight. Amongst the intemperate men there were twenty-three deaths out of thirty-eight cases: which is about three deaths out of five cases. Now, in the class of temperate men, that we may have twenty-three deaths, we should have one hundred and fifty-two patients; so, the mortality amongst the intemperate men was exactly four times as great as amongst those who were temperate.

If we class together the temperate men and the women, we shall have eight deaths in sixty cases. In order to have twenty-three deaths in this class, we should have at least one hundred and seventy-two patients. So that the mortality amongst the intemperate was four and a half times as great as it was in this class.

When we unite all into one mass, even including the children, we have thirty-one deaths in one hundred and seven cases, which is two deaths in seven cases—which is about double the mortality that we find in the class of temperate men. The view here taken is confirmed by the return given of cases in the City Hospital, in the Poor House, from the 10th of August to the 15th of September,

which exhibited one hundred and three cases admitted, of which thirty-seven died, and sixty-six were discharged, cured; making the deaths one in less than three cases. But of the thirty-seven persons who died, twenty-six were notoriously dissipated characters, leaving only eleven deaths of persons of temperate habits. Of those twenty-six dissipated or intemperate persons, eleven died within twenty-four hours after their admission; some within two hours, some within six, and others within ten hours. If, then, we take the same ratio as we find in the Relief Hospital, of twenty-three deaths out of thirty-eight cases, there were forty two intemperate persons admitted, deducting which number from one hundred and three, leaves us sixty-one temperate persons, of whom eleven died, being about one in six, which very nearly coincides with the return of the Relief Hospital.

If the same principle of calculation be now extended to the City and the Neck, and that we estimate the number of deaths at four hundred, which cannot be far from the truth, the total number of cases will be fairly estimated at less than fifteen hundred: and had we no drunkards in our community, not more than two hundred would have died; for in the view taken by this board, the fatality of the disease has been at least doubled by the abuse of intoxicating liquors.

The Board would not consider that they had done justice to the subject were they to stop here. They would, therefore, respectfully urge this farther consideration, which they deem to have considerable force; the calculation should not be confined to the increased number of deaths; it should be extended to the increased number of patients; because all medical men agree that dissipation is a pre-disposing cause which fits the body for imbibing the epidemic poison.

The Board will not enter into any attempt at calculation upon this head, but they feel quite satisfied, that although several temperate persons have fallen victims, yet it is evident that many of those who are now mouldering in their graves, would have been unassailed by sickness, but for the predisposition thus created.

Viewing these facts, and their necessary results, and being also well aware of the existence of many gross and notorious abuses under the present system of retail licences, the board resolved to invite the attention of the public authorities to the subject, for the purpose of attempting their remedy.

The Commissioners found that in many of the boarding houses where white laborers reside, great numbers were stowed into pla-

ces of small dimensions, imperfectly ventilated, and generally in a state almost deserving to be called filthy, with the beds and their furniture in a state fitted to engender disease. In many instances, the lodgers were crowded into low garrets, with only a thin shingle to protect them from the glowing heat of a Southern sun, or the chilling influence of the heavy dew. The confined air, the oppressive heat, the damp atmosphere of night entering through several loop-holes and apertures, the animal effluvia of so many sleepers, together with the state of the beds, of the furniture, and of the rooms, made several of those dwellings, during the last three months, hotbeds of the epidemic. It was, therefore, resolved to invite the attention of the authorities to the subject.

Another topic which occupied the attention of the Board, was the utility, if practicable, of excluding from the city those idle and dissipated persons who too frequently insinuate themselves amongst the industrious and useful mechanics and laborers, who are the bone and sinew of society, the great agents of industry, and creators of prosperity, whilst the former are known to be an incubus upon our city, a burthen to our institutions, the bane of our servants, the receivers and the conductors of pestilence, and an obstacle to our commerce, by injuring the character of our city for health.

The Board will not enlarge upon the recommendation which they have made of having the places of interment without the limits of the city. Its propriety, especially in such a climate as ours, has been sustained by the common feeling of many nations, and by the acts of some. The commissioners believe, that in the resolution which they have adopted, they only express the general wish of their fellow citizens.

They also thought it necessary to invite attention to the facts, that the Poor House was built at a period when the population of the city was much smaller than it now is, and that edifice is so constructed as to be fitted only for its ordinary necessities. Not only has the number of our citizens been enlarged within a few years, but it promises to increase speedily to a far greater extent; and the Board, therefore, respectfully suggest, that some arrangement should be made to afford more speedy relief on any future emergency; and they are of opinion that at present there are some articles on hand which may be turned to account for that purpose.

The population of the City and the Neck, during the late epidemic, may be fairly estimated at forty thousand persons, of whom at least one-fifth may be considered proper subjects for the fever, adding to the number of strangers, the unacclimated children. The

deaths have been, at the utmost, one in one hundred inhabitants. Though some who died of the disease were persons of color, yet if we strike this class of people from our estimate, we shall not have one death in fifty whites, nor more than one in twenty of those liable to the epidemic. Hence, though we have to lament the demise of many of our fellow citizens, yet when we consider that the fever has been amongst us nearly three months, we have no reason to value poorly the general salubrity of our city: especially when, after eleven years absence, this scourge has come upon us, after a summer of extraordinary heat, such as had not been experienced within the preceding century, and whilst the ruins of a recent conflagration were yet covering nearly one-third of our city.

We have besought and have experienced the mercy of our God, —we have had consoling evidences of sympathy, of humanity, and of charity. We are grateful for the favors that we have received, and should exert ourselves to secure future blessings for our beloved city, by our efforts for its improvement.

All which is respectfully submitted.

†JOHN, Bishop of Charleston, *Chairman.*
SAMUEL GILMAN,
JOHN CLARKSON,
JOHN H. HONOUR,
W. LAVAL,
R. W. SEYMOUR,
P. O'NEILL,
WM. H. BARNWELL,
BASILE LANNEAU, Jr.,
PAUL TRAPIER,
N. R. MIDDLETON,
JAMES E. EVANS,
WM. KIRKWOOD.

October 27, 1838.

Resolutions alluded to in the preceding Report, and adopted by the Board, to be submitted to the consideration of the City Council.

Whereas, the prevention of evil, whether moral, physical, or civil, is easier, safer, and cheaper, than its cure; and whereas, the City Authority, the constituted guardian of the public weal, has solicited and received the aid of this Board, in organizing and super-

vising the Queen street Hospital, which the late distressing exigencies of the city obviously called for; we deem it proper, ere we relinquish our temporary functions, to offer a few suggestions to the said Public Authority, which may tend much, in our judgment, to prevent, by the blessings of Providence, the recurrence of a similar calamity, or at least mitigate its severity. Therefore,

1. *Resolved*, That the attention of the City Authority be earnestly and especially requested to the present condition of the licenced retail system of ardent spirits in this city, as greatly contributing to aggravate the late prevailing epidemic.

2. *Resolved*, That as one means of effecting the object contemplated in the foregoing resolution, the city authorities be particularly requested to take into consideration the propriety of so regulating the laws, appertaining to the retailing of ardent spirits, as to make it obligatory on all proprietors of licenses No. 3, to close their places of sale at and after sunset.

3. That it be respectfully recommended to the same body, to consider whether some measures may not be taken to secure a public supervision of the boarding houses of the city, so as to prevent them from becoming sources of pestilence by the excessive number of persons often crowded into the same chamber, and the consequent uncleanliness that grows out of such a state of things.

4. That it be respectfully recommended to the same body, to consider whether at a time when a large number of industrious and useful mechanics and laborers are expected to arrive, for the purpose of being employed in rebuilding our city, it may not be practicable to prevent their being accompanied by the idle and the dissolute, who are not only likely to become burdensome to the city, but by their liability to pestilential disease, prove injurious to its commercial prosperity.

5. That the said body be requested to take into consideration the propriety of establishing a public Cemetery beyond the limits of the city, to be purchased and inclosed in the first instance, at the expense of the city, and to be sold out in lots to the different religious societies, or individuals, at convenient credit, and in such portions as they may choose.

6. That the said body be respectfully requested to take into consideration the propriety of making some definite arrangement with the Medical Society of South Carolina, with the view of securing the use of their building in Queen street, as a public Hospital, to be used in exigencies like the present.

REPORT OF THE PHYSICIAN TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

GENTLEMEN—In compliance with your request, we beg leave to submit the following condensed report of the cases admitted into the Relief Hospital, from the 15th September, to the 18th October, inclusive; with such other remarks as, in our opinion, are necessary, to enable you to form a correct judgment in relation to the result of such cases as have been committed to our care. We propose, then, to classify the patients, as far as information will enable us, as the only mode by which we can approximate the truth, in judging of the success of the practice which has been adopted in this Hospital, and that credit may not be awarded where it has not been merited; and that censure or blame may be spared in those cases, whose habits and constitutions, even in a milder form of disease, precluded the possibility of recovery, and who actually entered the Hospital moribund.

Names of Diseases, and number of Patients.

Delirium Tremens,	1
Fever Intermittent,	2
" Scarlet,	2
" Worm,	1
" Yellow,	97
Pneumonia,	1
Parotitis, (arising from Fever,)	2
Teething,	1
Total,	107

There were admitted, in all stages of the disease, thirty-eight male patients, whose habits were known and acknowledged to be intemperate; who had previously received medication, and had passed the meridian of life; many of whom were in *articulo mortis*, on their introduction into the Hospital. Independent of all these disadvantages, Delirium Tremens was actually engrafted on many of the cases; a most unmanageable, and *fatal* complication. Out of this number twenty-two died.

The proportion of deaths, a little more than one in two.

The second class comprises thirty-two, who were, as far as could be ascertained, men of sober habits, but admitted under similar circumstances to the first. Out of this number five died. The proportion of deaths, one in six and a half.

The third class, exclusively females, came into the Hospital as the two former, but on whose habits of life we have no comment to

make. Out of this number we lost three. The proportion of deaths, one in ten.

The fourth, and last class, consists of seven children, none of whom died, but were kindly provided for by the ladies, who had charge of the female department.

It follows, therefore, that one hundred and seven persons have been admitted, that thirty-one have died, and that seventy-six* have been discharged cured from the institution. The proportion of deaths in the cases of Fever, one in three and a half. And although we cannot boast of success, still we are not aware that the success of any Hospital practice in this city has been better than ours during the past season.

One object that we had in view on taking charge of the Hospital was to demonstrate, that calomel was not absolutely necessary in the successful treatment of Yellow Fever. We think the fact has been fully established. This mineral having been almost entirely excluded, and when administered, was for the purpose of relieving other maladies complicated with Fever; but two patients out of the whole number having taken calomel, even to the extent of ptyalism, both of whom recovered, but were longer under treatment than any other patients in the Hospital.

To Drs. Lusher and Frampton, and Mr. Yates, we return our thanks for the kindness experienced from them, for their uniform attention to the patients, and for the deep interest manifested by them in the prosperity of the Institution.

We cannot conclude this report, without returning to you, gentlemen, our most cordial and heartfelt thanks, for the unsolicited compliment we have received at your hands, in selecting us to take charge of the Medical Department; and if our conjoint efforts have been instrumental in mitigating human misery, or in preserving the life of a single fellow creature, we have been amply rewarded for the arduous and responsible duties which have devolved upon us, in the conscientious belief, that we have faithfully, and to the best of our ability, discharged our duty; and without prejudice to our other official obligations.

I am, with much respect, your obedient servant,

A. G. HOWARD, *M. D.*

October 19th, 1838.

* One sent to the Poor House.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS.

The Committee on Accounts beg leave to submit to the Board of Commissioners of the Relief Hospital, Queen-street, the annexed statement of expenses incurred from the opening to the period of closing said Hospital on the 26th instant.

It will be seen that the amount drawn from the Treasury of the city, is $1,400, of which the sum of $1,354 52 have been expended. To this sum must be added the compensation agreed upon at the last meeting of the Board, for the services rendered by Dr. A. G. Howard of $500, which will make the cost to the city, of said Hospital, $1,854 52. Of this amount, however, the sum of nearly $300 were expended in fixtures, necessary furniture, crockery, cooking utensils, and surgical instruments, all of which are now on hand.

In addition to the amount drawn from the City Treasury, and expended as per annexed account, it is proper to state, that the sum of $237, was received by the ladies who superintended the Female Department of said Hospital, from charitable individuals, all of which has been expended in the payment of Nurses wages, and other incidental expenses of the Hospital. Had this sum, which does not appear in the statement herewith submitted, been drawn from the City Treasury, the entire expense of the Relief Hospital, would have been $2091 52.

While your Committee are free to admit that every thing desirable and necessary to the ease and comfort of the patients, were liberally supplied, they are also fully convinced that no *waste* has been incurred; and that all things considered, the entire establishment has been as economically managed, as could have been anticipated.

BASILE LANNEAU, Jr.
JNO. H. HONOUR,
SAMUEL GILMAN.

The Committee on Accounts further state, that at a meeting of the Board of Commissioners held this day, the amount appropriated to Dr. A. G. Howard, for services rendered, was paid him by an order on the City Treasurer; and also, the sum of twenty-five dollars was paid Marshal Moses, out of the unappropriated balance of $45 48—leaving in the hands of the Committee on Expenditures, a balance of $20 48, which, by vote of the Board, was ordered to be paid over to the City Treasurer.

BASILE LANNEAU, Jr. *Chairman C. of A.*